

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**India to send wheat to Afghanistan via Iran's Chabahar port**

**TASNIM** – India will send 20,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan via Chabahar port in southern Iran. India has already announced the supply of 20,000 tons of wheat assistance to Afghanistan in partnership with the UN World Food Program through Chabahar port.

**Internet available to 90% of Iran's rural population**

**IRNA** – An official in Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications (ICT) said that around 90% of the Iranian population living in villages with over 20 households has access to the internet. Iraj Rouhi, the director of ICT's Universal Services Obligation Department, said on Saturday that internet penetration rate for Iran's rural population had increased by nine percent since the current administration came to office in August 2020. He added that the development of information technology in Iran's rural areas is a priority for his ministry, adding that the country seeks to provide high-quality internet on a large scale for people living in the countryside.

**TSE index down 845 points**

**TSETMC** – TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 845 points to settle at 1,816,739 on Saturday. Over 14.879 billion securities worth 66.792 trillion rials (about \$155.33 billion) were traded at the TSE. TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

**Iran-Oman annual trade to hit \$2b: Businesswoman**

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Staff Writer

Moreover, the first private sector sea freight line was established in May 2022 from Bandar Abbas to Oman's Sohar port, which is considered to be the second heavily equipped port of Oman. Expansion of the shipping container line aims at transshipping export goods and increasing re-export or import from Oman. This will be done by both refrigerated containers and ordinary ones. Jamali attributed the growth of trade between the two countries to the approach of the 13th government to the development of trade relations with neighboring countries, especially Oman. She added that the Trade Promotion Organization is the main custodian of foreign trade planning and policy making, and has taken very good measures to develop Iran's exchanges with neighboring states.

"The infrastructure and capacity of maritime transport between Iran and Oman has also devel-



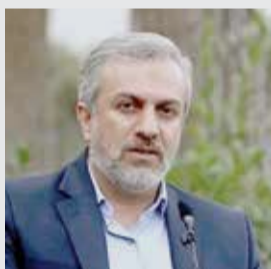
IRNA

oped significantly, with more than 80 vessels traveling between the ports of the two countries on a daily basis, most of them moving fruits and agricultural products and bulk goods between the two

countries." Jamali also noted that facilitating currency transfers contributed to increased volume of exchanges between the two countries, stating that the first authorized exchange

of the Central Bank of Iran started its activity in the field of Oman-related works in Tehran last year. "The joint chamber of commerce is also pursuing the establishment of the first Iranian exchange

in Oman through one of the country's private banks by obtaining the necessary permits and organizing all matters related to foreign currency transfers of traders," she concluded.

**Iran's exports up 17.7%**

The Iranian minister of industry, mine and trade said that the country's exports registered a 17.7% hike in the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022-January 22, 2023).

Speaking on the sidelines of the 10th election term of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran on Saturday, Seyyed Reza Fatemi-Amin stated that the country's imports hit a 16.9% hike in the period, Tasnim News Agency

reported. Iran imported \$5 billion worth of industrial equipment and machinery in the 10 months of the previous Iranian year, which increased to \$8 billion in the 10 months of the current year, Fatemi Amin added. Despite tough sanctions imposed against the country, traders managed to take giant strides in realizing most economic objectives, he said, adding that the Ministry of Industry is ready to support Iranians in business.



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**IME weekly trade exceeds \$951m**

The Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) announced that over 4.01 million tons of commodities, worth over \$951 million, were traded in its domestic trading and export halls in the week closing on March 10. A total of 3.58 million tons of various products, worth about \$714 million, were traded at IME's domestic and export metal and mineral trading hall, ime.co.ir reported.

Among the traded products were 616,240 tons of steel, 1.42 million tons of iron ore, 110,600 tons of sponge iron, 1,200 tons of zinc, 10,650 tons of aluminum ingots, 4,123 tons of copper, 300 tons of molybdenum concentrate, two kg of gold bars and 1.42 million tons of cement.

In addition, 422,174 tons of various commodities, valued at about \$233 million, were traded at IME's domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading halls. Other traded items were 126,436 tons of polymeric products, 70,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 43,000 tons of lube cut, 41,624 tons of chemical products, 5,000 tons of sulfur, 4,817 tons of base oil, 200 tons of insulation, 460 tons of feedstocks, 1,426 tons of petroleum products and 138,701 tons of bitumen.



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**Minister inaugurates 10 maritime projects in southern Iran**

Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash inaugurated 10 maritime projects worth nearly \$100 million in southern Hormuzgan Province during a visit on Saturday, according to a statement by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

The inauguration ceremony of the projects was also attended by PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei, Governor of Hormuzgan Province Mehdi Dousti, as well as some provincial officials and MPs, IRNA reported. Of the inaugurated projects, six were put into operation with a total investment of nearly \$45 million.

The inaugurated projects include a marine reference building, a new section of the third phase of Shahid Rajaei Port's development plan, and two machines with a total capacity of 300 tons per hour for loading and unloading of grains at the port.

Khamir multipurpose port was another major project that was inaugurated by the minister. The port is developed with the aim of facilitating trade, enhancing the export of minerals, and boosting employment in the province.



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